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EXAMINER

KRASNIC, BERNARD

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2624

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/697,533	Applicant(s) RUNDLE ET AL.	
	Examiner Bernard Krasnic	Art Unit 2624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 February 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, and 3-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. The amendment filed 2/22/2007 have been entered and made of record.
2. Applicants has canceled claim 2. Also, Applicants has incorporated newly added claims 28-30.

3. In response to the amendments filed on 2/22/2007:

The "Objections To The Drawings" has been entered and therefore the Examiner withdraws the objections to the drawing.

The "Objections To The Specification" has been entered and therefore the Examiner withdraws the objection to the specification.

The "Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 112" have been entered and therefore the Examiner withdraws the 35 U.S.C. 112, Second Paragraph Rejections.

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1, 3-27 and 28-30 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection necessitated by the Applicant's amendments toward independent claims 1, 6, 11, and 22.

The Applicant alleges, "It is submitted that amended independent claims 1 and 22 ..." in page 28 and "It is submitted that dependent claims 7 and 12 ..." in page 29, and states respectively that the Ryan does not disclose or teach "a plurality of predetermined profiles" and that Ryan only teaches "a single comparison" (instead of

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multiple comparisons) "because there is no plurality of predetermined profiles".

However the Examiner disagrees, and does believe Ryan does disclose for claims 1, 22, 7, and 12 a plurality of predetermined profiles which are different components of the address such as the zip code, street address, etc. and that using these different predetermined profiles goes through an iterative step to justify if a mail letter is either to be diverted or be separated for delivery. But, to clarify the arguments, the Examiner has used and incorporated the Sansone (US 2002/0141613 A1) reference as necessitated by the Applicants amendment with the Ryan reference to provide a 35 U.S.C. 103 rejection as will be discussed below.

The Applicant alleges, "It is submitted that amended dependent claims 19-21 and 27 are not obvious ..." in pages 30-31, and states respectively that "neither Ryan nor Kagehiro nor their combination discloses or suggests at least one distinguishing handwriting characteristic for handwriting penned by one individual". The Examiner agrees and therefore uses the Sansone reference as necessitated by the Applicants amendment to provide a 35 U.S.C. 103 rejection as will be discussed below.

The newly added claims 28-30 necessitate new grounds of rejection. As for newly added claim 30, the limitations "or one updated predetermined profile" in lines 4-5, line 6, line 8, and lines 12-13, and step "m) repeating steps (i) through (l) for another one of the plurality of new or updated predetermined profiles, if the at least one new profile image characteristic does not substantially match the at least one archived mail piece image characteristic" in lines 12-14 are considered new subject matter because the support the Applicant specifies (Applicants' specification, paragraphs 32-35) does

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not support the claimed limitations and therefore a 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, rejection is made as will be discussed below.

5. Applicant's arguments filed 2/22/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The Applicant alleges, "It is submitted that dependent claims 3 and 5 are patentable ... in page 28, and states respectively that since amended independent claim 1 is patentable, claims 3 and 5 by virtue are patentable as well. However, the Examiner disagrees because as discussed above and in the 35 U.S.C. 103 rejection, independent claim 1 is not patentable and therefore the rejection on claims 3 and 5 remains.

The Applicant alleges, "It is submitted that independent claims 6 and 11 are not anticipated by Ryan ..." in pages 28-29 and "It is submitted that dependent claim 23 is not ..." in page 29, and states respectively that Ryan does not teach the "Applicants action identifier" as "described in the Applicants specification in paragraph 24 and 46". However the Examiner disagrees because the Applicant seems to have read a limitation into the action identifier that is not claimed in claims 6, 11, and 23, but only recited in the specification. The Examiner's rejection as stated by the Applicant where the action identifier is to "divert the suspect mail piece to a diverter collection" is sufficient enough to read on the broad interpretation of the claimed subject matter, the action identifier need not have different multiple actions. When a suspect mail piece is identified from the suspect database (not suspect criteria as Applicant has suggested, see Ryan, Fig.

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9a, reference no. 26), the action is to divert it to a diverter type collection. Therefore, the Examiner stands with the initial rejections made on independent claims 6, 11, and 23 in the Non-Final Office Action filed 11/22/2006.

The Applicant alleges, "It is submitted that dependent claims 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 18, 24, 25, 26 are ..." in page 29, and states respectively that dependent claims 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 18, 24, 25, 26 are patentable by virtue upon amended independent claims 6, 11, and 22. However the Examiner disagrees, because as discussed above and in the 35 U.S.C. 103 rejection below, the independent claims 6, 11, and 22 are still unpatentable and therefore by virtue the rejections on dependent claims 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 18, 24, 25, 26 remain.

The Applicant alleges, "Since Ryan does not teach every element of Applicants' amended independent claims ..." in page 29, and states respectively that amended claims 1, 6, 11, and 22 and claims 3-5, 7-10, 12-21, and 23-28 which depend selectively therefrom are not anticipated by Ryan and therefore are now in condition for allowance. However the Examiner disagrees, because as discussed above, independent claims 1, 6, 11, and 22 are not patentable and the rejections on their dependent claims remain as will be shown in the rejections below.

The Applicant alleges, "It is submitted that amended dependent claim 4 is not ..." in page 30, and states respectively that claim 4 is allowable because independent claim 1 is patentable. However the Examiner disagrees because as discussed above, independent claim 1 is not patentable and therefore the rejection on claim 4 remains.

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The Applicant alleges, "It is submitted that dependent claims 16 and 17 are not ..." in page 30, and states respectively that claims 16 and 17 are allowable because independent claim 11 is patentable. However the Examiner disagrees because as discussed above, independent claim 11 is not patentable and therefore the rejection on claims 16 and 17 remains.

The Applicant alleges, "Since none of Ryan, Lopez ..." in page 31, and states respectively that Applicants' dependent claims 4, 16, 17, 19-21, or 27 are not made obvious by Ryan, Lopez, Bloomfield, and Kagehiro. However the Examiner disagrees because as discussed above, claims 4, 16 and 17 are not patentable and as discussed above, claims 19-21 and 27 are not patentable in view of Sansone.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

6. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

7. Claim 30 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The limitations "or one updated predetermined profile" in lines 4-5, line 6, line 8, and lines 12-13, and step "m) repeating steps (i) through (l) for another one of the plurality of new or updated predetermined profiles, if

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the at least one new profile image characteristic does not substantially match the at least one archived mail piece image characteristic" in lines 12-14 are considered new subject matter because the support the Applicant specifies (Applicants' specification, paragraphs 32-35) does not support these claimed limitations.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

9. Claims 6, 8-9, 11, 13-15, 18 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ryan Jr. (US 7,071,437 B2).

Re Claim 11: Ryan Jr. discloses a system enabling identification of mail pieces based upon predetermined characteristics, the system comprising: means for obtaining an image (14) of a mail piece (see Fig. 9a, col. 4, lines 40-42, col. 5, lines 11-18); means for obtaining at least one mail piece image characteristic associated with the image of the mail piece (see col. 5, lines 11-18); at least one processor (110) (see Fig. 1a, col. 4, lines 34-35); a first memory (22, 26 108, 114) for storing data for access by a process

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executed by at least one processor (see Fig. 9a, col. 4, lines 46-48), said memory comprising: a) a database (22 and 26) storing data for each one of a plurality of predetermined profiles (see Fig. 9a, col. 4, lines 46-48), the data comprising: an identifier, at least one profile image characteristic, and, an action identifier / address, addressee, and divert (see col. 5, lines 20-65); and, b) at least one second memory (153) having computer readable code embodied therein (see Fig. 9a, col. 12, lines 18-21), the computer readable code capable of causing the at least one processor to: retrieve the data for one of the plurality of predetermined profiles from the database (see Fig. 9a, Computer system 100 retrieves data from the address database 22 or 26, col. 4, lines 46-48, col. 9, lines 25-32, col. 10, lines 63-68, col. 12, lines 13-15), compare (S208) the at least one mail piece image characteristic to the at least one profile image characteristic from the retrieved data (see Fig. 9c, col. 12, lines 13-15), identify (S210) the mail piece as requiring the action identified by the action identifier (divert for further processing, see Fig. 9c, col. 12, lines 18-21, 49-53, 58-61) from the retrieved data, if the at least one mail piece image characteristic present in the retrieved data substantially matches the at least one profile image characteristic from the retrieved data.

This is similarly applied to claim 6. Ryan Jr. teaches all the limitations in the same respective manner as described above for claim 11.

The limitations as recited in claims 6 and 11 in lines 3-4, "means for obtaining an image" and "means for obtaining at least one image characteristic", invoke 35 USC 112, 6th paragraph.

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Re Claims 8 and 13 respectively: Ryan Jr. further discloses means for communicating with a network (27 and 28a) (web server communicates with investigation entity, see Fig. 9a, col. 13, lines 60-67).

The limitation as recited in claims 8 and 13 in line 2, "means for communicating", invoke 35 USC 112, 6th paragraph.

Re Claims 9 and 14 respectively: Ryan Jr. further discloses a remote server (27) capable of receiving and sending data (see Fig. 9a, col. 13, lines 60-67).

Re Claim 15: Ryan Jr. further discloses postage, address, addressee, handwriting characteristics, etc (see col. 5, lines 50-57).

Re Claim 18: Ryan Jr. further discloses another memory (28a) for storing data for access by a process executed by the remote server, said memory including a database (28a) (see Fig. 9a, col. 13, lines 60-67).

Re Claim 28: Ryan Jr. further discloses said database (28a) is downloaded from the network (27) (see Fig. 9a, a profile database 28a may be received or inherently downloaded from the network or web server 27).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

10. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

11. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 10, 12, 22-26, and 29-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ryan Jr. in view of Sansone (US 2002/0141613 A1). The teachings of Ryan have been discussed above.

Re Claim 1: Ryan Jr. discloses a method for identifying mail pieces for special processing based upon predetermined characteristics, the method comprising the steps of a) storing a plurality of predetermined profiles, each of the predetermined profiles having at least one profile image characteristic (22 and 26) (see Fig. 9a, col. 4, lines 46-48, col. 5, lines 20-65, col. 9, lines 26-29); b) obtaining at least one mail piece image characteristic associated with an image of a mail piece (14) (see Fig. 9a, col. 4, lines 40-42, col. 5, lines 11-18); c) retrieving one of the predetermined profiles that has not yet been used in a comparison (see Fig. 9a, Computer system 100 retrieves data from the address database 22 or 26, col. 4, lines 46-48, col. 9, lines 25-32, col. 10, lines 63-68, col. 12, lines 13-15); d) comparing (S208) the at least one mail piece image characteristic to the at least one profile image characteristic present in the one of the predetermined profiles (see Fig. 9c, col. 12, lines 13-15); e) identifying the mail piece for special processing / divert for further processing (S210) (see Fig. 9c, col. 12, lines 18-21, 49-53, 58-61), if the at least one profile image characteristic substantially matches

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the at least one mail piece image characteristic; f) repeating steps c) through e) for another one of the plurality of predetermined profiles, if the at least one profile image characteristic does not substantially match the at least one mail piece image characteristic.

However, Ryan Jr. fails to specifically suggest f) repeating steps c) through e) for another one of the plurality of predetermined profiles, if the at least one profile image characteristic does not substantially match the at least one mail piece image characteristic.

Sansone discloses f) repeating steps c) through e) for another one of the plurality of predetermined profiles / return address city or zip code, postal indicia, etc. if the at least one profile image characteristic does not substantially match the at least one mail piece image characteristic (see Fig. 7, paragraph [0041], lines 1-21, uses predetermined profiles that have not yet been used in a comparison when repeating the steps c through e).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify (further specify) Ryan Jr.'s method and system using Sansone's teachings by including the specific recitation that steps c through e are repeated for a different profile characteristic in order to specifically go through the different profiles one at a time to exhaustively make sure that there is no visual threat indicator (see Sansone, paragraph [0041], lines 1-21).

This is similarly applied to claim 22 where instead of a method comprising of several steps, a system comprising of several means plus functions to produce those

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same steps respectively is considered. In regards to the two extra limitations presented in claim 22, Ryan Jr. discloses a transport sub-system (16) capable of transporting a mail item (see Fig. 9a, col. 4, line 42, col. 11, lines 33-35), and an imaging sub-system (14) capable of obtaining an image of the mail piece (see Fig. 9a, lines 41-42, col. 5, lines 11-18).

The limitations as recited in claim 22 in lines 6, 9, 11, 12, and 16, "means for storing", "means for obtaining", "means for retrieving", "means for comparing", and "means for identifying", invoke 35 USC 112, 6th paragraph.

Re Claims 7, 12, and 23 respectively: Ryan Jr. further discloses to retrieve the data corresponding to another predetermined profile from the plurality of predetermined profiles from the database (see Fig. 9a, Computer system 100 retrieves data from the address database 22 or 26, col. 4, lines 46-48, col. 9, lines 25-32, col. 10, lines 63-68, col. 12, lines 13-15), compare (S208) the at least one mail piece image characteristic for the image of the mail piece to the at least one profile image characteristic from the retrieved data (see Fig. 9c, col. 12, lines 13-15), identify (S210) the mail piece as requiring the action identified by the action identifier / divert for further processing from the retrieved data (see Fig. 9c, col. 12, lines 18-21, 49-53, 58-61), if the at least one profile image characteristic from the retrieved data substantially matches the at least one mail piece image characteristic for the image of the mail piece.

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However, Ryan Jr. fails to specifically suggest (Ryan silently suggests) retrieving another predetermined profile to redo the comparison and identification by the action identifier.

Sansone discloses retrieving another predetermined profile / return address city or zip code, postal indicia, etc. to redo the comparison and identification as discussed for claims 1 and 22 above (see Fig. 7, paragraph [0041], lines 1-21, uses predetermined profiles that have not yet been used in a comparison when repeating the steps c through e as discussed in claims 1 and 22 above).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify (further specify) Ryan Jr.'s method and system using Sansone's teachings by including the specific recitation that steps c through e are repeated for a different profile characteristic in order to specifically go through the different profiles one at a time to exhaustively make sure that there is no visual threat indicator (see Sansone, paragraph [0041], lines 1-21).

The limitations as recited in claim 23 in lines 2, 5, and 9, "means for retrieving", "means for comparing", and "means for identifying", invoke 35 USC 112, 6th paragraph.

Re Claim 3: Although Ryan Jr. is silent in disclosing comparing the at least one mail piece image characteristic to the at least one profile image characteristic occurs during real-time processing, it is obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have such a feature because in order to have an efficient and

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reliable processing mail system, it has to be real-time processing (see col. 1, lines 42-45).

Re Claims 5, 10, and 24 respectively: Ryan Jr. further discloses postage, address, addressee, handwriting characteristics, etc (see col. 5, lines 50-57).

Re Claim 25: Ryan Jr. further discloses means for communicating with a network (27 and 28a) (web server communicates with investigation entity, see Fig. 9a, col. 13, lines 60-67).

The limitation as recited in claim 25 in line 2, "means for communicating", invoke 35 USC 112, 6th paragraph.

Re Claim 26: Ryan Jr. further discloses a remote server (27) capable of receiving and sending data (see Fig. 9a, col. 13, lines 60-67).

Re Claim 29: Ryan Jr. further discloses modifying a result record / video coded sent mailpiece associated with the image of the mail piece if the mail piece is flagged / diverted for the special processing / suspect determination; transmitting / video coding terminal the image to a remote site / terminal for manual image inspection / operator makes final determination according to the result record / video coded sent mailpiece; and classifying the mail piece as innocuous or suspicious / tag to the mailpiece ID code as suspect based on the manual image inspection (see col. 13, lines 29-49).

Re Claim 30 [as best understood by the Examiner]: Sansone further discloses steps of

- g) archiving the mail image having at least one archived mail piece image characteristic;
- h) updating the plurality of predetermined profiles by creating at least one new or one updated predetermined profile having at least one new profile image characteristic (see page 5, paragraph [0041], lines 18-21, Sansone discloses having handwriting previously used on mail containing life harming materials which means that handwritings are archived if they end up having suspect materials and therefore the profiles are updated since apparently there is a need to compare handwritings to previously used handwritings which are associated with mail containing life harming materials); i) retrieving one of the new or updated predetermined profiles that has not yet been used in the comparison (see Fig. 7, paragraph [0041], the different handwritten components of the address such as the street, zip code, state, etc. could be retrieved and compared); j) comparing the at least one archived mail piece image characteristic to the at least one new profile image characteristic present in the one new or one updated predetermined profile (see Fig. 7, paragraph [0041], the comparison between the archived suspect handwriting could be compared to the new profile); l) identifying the archived mail piece for the special processing / suspect, if the at least one new profile image characteristic substantially matches the at least one archived mail piece image characteristic (see Fig. 7, paragraph [0041], a comparison is made between the archived suspect handwriting with the new profile and a divert for further suspect processing is determined); and m) repeating steps (i) through (l) for another one of the

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plurality of new or updated predetermined profiles, if the at least one new profile image characteristic does not substantially match the at least one archived mail piece image characteristic (see Fig. 7, paragraph [0041], different profiles are compared if one profile doesn't match).

12. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ryan Jr. as modified by Sansone, and further in view of Lopez (US 2002/0029202 A1). The teachings of Ryan Jr. as modified by Sansone have been discussed above.

However, Ryan Jr. as modified by Sansone fails to disclose or fairly suggest that the comparison occurs during an offline process.

Lopez discloses the step of comparing the at least one mail piece image characteristic to the at least one profile image characteristic occurs during offline processing (506, 509, and 511) (see Figure 5, paragraph [0057], attempts to locate the return address for the diverted mail piece).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify Ryan Jr.'s method, as modified by Sansone, using Lopez's teachings by including the ability to do comparisons during offline processing in order enhance performance and time efficiency because if it is a mail piece that needs to be returned to the sender, it does not need immediate attention and could be sorted for processing during offline processing.

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13. Claims 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ryan Jr. in view of Bloomfield (US 6,025,931). The teachings of Ryan Jr. have been discussed above.

However, Ryan Jr. fails to disclose or fairly suggest at least one third memory having computer readable code capable of causing the at least one processor to retrieve the data, compare, and identify if the action is required.

Bloomfield discloses at least one third memory / RAM (206) (see Fig. 3, col. 7, 55-57, col. 8, lines 4-16) having computer readable code capable of causing the at least one processor / CPU (206) (see Fig. 3, col. 8, lines 4-16) to retrieve the data for one of the plurality of predetermined profiles from the database (120, 116, and 200) (see Fig. 1, Fig. 3, col. 7, lines 49-59, have a database of the different e-mail addresses that exist), compare the at least one mail piece image characteristic for the image of the mail piece (283) to the at least one profile image characteristic from the retrieved data (see Fig. 5, the email address is compared to the database of email addresses, col. 7, lines 49-59), identify the mail piece as requiring the action identified by the action identifier from the retrieved data (see col. 7, lines 49-59, return the email back to the sender if the email address for the intended recipient doesn't exist), if the at least one profile image characteristic present in the retrieved data substantially matches the at least one mail piece image characteristic from the retrieved data or for the image of the mail piece. In general, Bloomfield integrates a Fax to an internet server where the fax is able to scan the letter for the email address which is to be sent (see abstract), compares the email address to the list of emails that exist, and route it appropriately, if the email address

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doesn't exist, return the email to the sender. This could easily be incorporated to the web server component of Ryan Jr.'s system.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Ryan Jr.'s system using Bloomfield's teachings by including a third memory as part of the remote server in order to include the capability of sending emails from the use of hard copy documents.

14. Claims 19-21, and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ryan Jr. in view of Sansone. The teachings of Ryan Jr. have been discussed above.

However, Ryan Jr. fails to specifically (see col. 5, lines 51-53 of Ryan Jr., poorly typed or handwritten) disclose or fairly suggest at least one mail piece image characteristic comprises at least one handwriting characteristic; and, wherein said one of the predetermined profiles comprises at least one distinguishing handwriting characteristic for handwriting penned by one individual.

Sansone discloses at least one image characteristic comprises at least one handwriting characteristic; and, wherein said one of the predetermined profiles comprises at least one distinguishing handwriting characteristic for one individual (see paragraph [0041], lines 18-21, the font or handwriting used on the face of the mailpiece is compared with a profile of the font or handwriting used on mail containing life harming materials).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Ryan Jr.'s method and system using Sansone's teachings by including the capability to have handwritten mail image characteristics in order to enhance efficiency of the determination of suspect data by being able to even process all handwritten mail, which is a large portion of mail that is sent into the postal system and even compare it to mail handwritings that were used once for life harming materials (see Sansone, paragraph [0041], lines 18-21).

Conclusion

15. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Sansone discloses a mailing system with information feedback.

16. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

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extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

17. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bernard Krasnic whose telephone number is (571) 270-1357. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thur 8:00am-4:00pm and every other Friday 8:00am-3:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jingge Wu can be reached on (571) 272-7429. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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April 19, 2007


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